feedstock. According to information available, it is estimated that approximately 42.6% capacity of large urea plants in China is based on coal as feedstock. It is also learnt that a number of new urea capacities are being planned based on coal as feedstock in China.

(c) The Government of India has already recognized coal as a viable source of feed stock for production of urea in the country. The New Investment Policy for urea sector notified in September, 2008, recognizes coal gas as an alternative source of urea production in the country. With the above policy dispensation, it is expected that feasibility of utilizing high ash Indian coal for production of urea in the country will be actively explored by the Indian industry.

Price hike of bulk drugs

35. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 650 drug makers have reportedly asked Government to immediately increase the prices of 33 bulk drugs, failing which companies will have to stop manufacturing several medicines;

(b) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has also been asked to examine the need to increase prices of these bulk drugs, as demanded by Pharmaceutical companies; and

(c) if so, whether Government intends to harmonize price control issues with growth as well as examine requirements of the pharmaceutical industry and undertake price fixation and price monitoring so that common man could afford to buy essential medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Industry Associations namely Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA), Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Bulk Drug Manufacturers Associations (BDMA) requested to the Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to increase the price of 33 bulk drugs during May-June, 2008.

(b) The Government in its meeting held on 26.6.2008 advised the Pharma Industry Associations that the respective units may file price revision applications in respect of 33 bulk drugs to NPPA under para 3(5) of DPCO,95 and NPPA will examine these price revision application on case to case basis.

(c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations is currently carried out by a specified criteria on the basis of data from ORG IMS. The criteria, namely, high turnover and 10% price increase are designed to identify cases of mass consumption and to meet the requirement of 'public interest', referred to in para 10(b) of the

DPCO, 1995. Monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations is an ongoing exercise undertaken by the NPPA. The objective of Drug price control and monitoring is to ensure adequate availability of medicines at reasonable prices in the country.

PCPIR at Dahej

36. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized techno-feasibility on the proposal of Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation for setting up Petroleum Chemicals and Petro-chemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Dahej in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time period scheduled for setting up PCPIR at Dahej?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) We have received a proposal from Government of Gujarat for setting up a Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Dahej spread over an area of 453 Sq. Kms. Inter ministerial consultation has been completed in respect of the proposal and the same is now being put up for recommendation of the High Powered Committee.

Award of contracts for research work

†37. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) detail of the contracts awarded to advisors, non-governmental organizations, educational and research organizations under his Ministry during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the research contracts have been shown on the website of the Ministry;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria adopted for awarding contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Details of the research projects granted by the Department of Fertilizers during the last three years, year-wise, to renowned educational and research organisations of the country, under their Science and Technology (S and T) scheme, are at Statement-I. (*See* below)

Details of research projects granted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), SAS Nagar, during the last 3 years, year-wise, are given at Statement-II. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Relevant details of these research projects are available on the website of the Departments.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.